

Dianna M. Náñez

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U.S. Rep. Harry Mitchell, D-Tempe, will vote yes on health-care reform.

His decision came this afternoon as President Barack Obama continued pushing for enough votes to ensure the bill's passage in the U.S. House of Representatives. Mitchell had been one of an estimated 30 or so House members whose votes were considered up in the air.

"Through a year of debate and studying several bills, I have heard from health care professionals, insurers, patients, and tens of thousands of passionate and concerned Arizonans both for and against reform," Mitchell said in a press release. "One thing has been made clear. We cannot sustain the path we are on because health care costs are burdening Arizona families, hurting the economy and slowing the recovery."

A vote is considered likely Sunday in the House. Although Mitchell is supporting the reform, he acknowledged concerns.

"While not perfect, the reconciliation package addresses several of the concerns I had with the Senate bill. It closes the prescription drug donut hole for seniors, helps to mitigate the impact of Medicaid costs on Arizona, and eliminates special deals like the Cornhusker Kickback," he said, referring to a benefit for Nebraska in an earlier version of the legislation. "Whether one supports or opposes the underlying bill, I believe a vote to block these fixes is irresponsible. These fixes help Arizona and I strenuously urge the Senate to adopt them."

Mitchell praised the reform's benefits.

"This package would ban insurance companies from denying people with pre-existing conditions, set up a free-market exchange that allows insurance companies to compete across state lines, strengthen Medicare, and ensure that small business owners and individuals have

access to affordable plans," he said.

He fought concerns that have plagued Democrats' support of the bill.

"The package does not contain so-called "death panels" or government takeovers of health care, and it will not dismantle the private insurance industry. It does not allow federal dollars to fund abortion or provide coverage for illegal immigrants. If it did, I would not vote for it," he said.

State leaders were criticized for budget cuts to locally funded health-insurance programs.

"The state's decision to kick kids off state health insurance, risk billions in federal matching funds and kill over 42,000 jobs is not a recipe for economic recovery," he said. "The state of Arizona had a fiscal crisis before this bill and decisions like that will keep it mired in one without it. I believe the Governor and the state legislature need to spend more time getting our state's fiscal house in order, and less time blaming others for the problems they are exacerbating by putting their politics ahead of the people they were elected to serve."